

# EXHIBIT C

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

\* \* \* \* \*

THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 3:17-01362

AMERISOURCEBERGEN DRUG  
CORPORATION, et al.,  
Defendants.

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CABELL COUNTY COMMISSION,  
Plaintiff,

vs.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 3:17-01665

AMERISOURCEBERGEN DRUG  
CORPORATION, et al.,  
Defendants.

\* \* \* \* \*

Videotaped and videoconference deposition  
of KATHERINE KEYES taken by the Defendants under  
the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in the above-  
entitled action, pursuant to notice, before Teresa  
S. Evans, a Registered Merit Reporter, all parties  
located remotely, on the 15th day of September,  
2020.

1 deaths that you directly attribute to prescription  
2 opioids, and the other is those you indirectly  
3 attribute. Is that right?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. And you -- you do this based on a review of  
6 death certificates? Is that right?

7 A. In part. That's one of the methodologies  
8 used.

9 Q. What else did you look at aside from death  
10 certificates?

11 A. We also looked at the proportion of people  
12 who don't have a prescription op -- well, we look  
13 -- among those who don't have a prescription opioid  
14 listed on their death certificate, we used the  
15 literature to estimate the portion that are  
16 indirectly attributable based on inference from the  
17 literature.

18 Q. Where did you get the base data for the  
19 information listed on the death certificates?

20 A. The CDC. The National Vital Statistics  
21 system.

22 Q. And the death certificates list all of the  
23 substances found in the body at the time of death.  
24 Is that right?

1           A.    They list the substances contributing to  
2   the death, I believe.

3           Q.    Is it substances contributing to the death  
4   or substances found in the body?

5           A.    Based on the T codes that I used, I believe  
6   that they are contributing to the death.

7           Q.    And that judgment is made by whom?

8           A.    Usually a medical examiner.

9           Q.    And so there can be circumstances where  
10   somebody at the time of death has multiple drugs in  
11   their body and -- first of all, let me ask you  
12   that. I take it that's true, right? At the time  
13   of death, you could have people with multiple drugs  
14   in their body?

15          A.    That's right.

16          Q.    And there are occasions where the medical  
17   examiner lists the factors that contribute to death  
18   as more than one drug?

19          A.    That's right.

20          Q.    And your judgment and your methodology was  
21   that if -- if prescription opioids were listed as  
22   one of the contributing factors, you directly  
23   attributed the death to prescription opioids even  
24   if there were other drugs also identified as

1 contributing causes?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. And so you could have somebody who had a  
4 mix of substances that was 99 percent fentanyl and  
5 1 percent prescription opioid at the time of death.  
6 Right?

7 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection. .

8 Q. I'm saying 99 and 1 percent as a fraction  
9 of the drugs in their body.

10 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

11 A. That's a hypothetical. I haven't seen data  
12 from the Hunt -- Cabell/Huntington community that  
13 would list the percentages of each drug that were  
14 --

15 Q. I'll agree. Maybe I'll ask it a different  
16 way that may be better.

17 So you could have a circumstance where  
18 the medical examiner identifies fentanyl and  
19 prescription opioid as contributing causes of  
20 death, right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And the medical examiner doesn't list which  
23 one is primary or which one is secondary, right?

24 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

1           A.    Yeah, in that example, it -- if the  
2    fentanyl was in a prescription pill, then both were  
3    necessary for the death.

4           Q.    Well, I was just asking about fentanyl --  
5    let's talk about illicit fentanyl, illegal  
6    fentanyl.   And --

7                   MR. ARBITBLIT:   Sorry.

8           Q.    -- after 2015 or so, you're aware that  
9    there has been a significant spike in illegal  
10   fentanyl use in Cabell/Huntington?

11          A.    Yes.

12          Q.    And so let's -- I just wanted -- it is  
13   hypothetical, but to help illustrate what we're  
14   talking about, you could have a death certificate  
15   that lists fentanyl and heroin as causes of death  
16   in the -- without the medical examiner deciding  
17   which was primary and which was secondary.  
18   Correct?

19                   MR. ARBITBLIT:   Objection.

20          A.    Based on the T codes, you know, I think the  
21   T codes are all just listed as contributing causes.  
22   The idea is that they interact with each other, so  
23   that each one was necessary for the death to occur.

24          Q.    And --

1 taken together. So again, I would say that the  
2 person would not have taken fentanyl had the  
3 prescription opioid not been there.

4 Do you know what I'm saying? So I  
5 would say when the prescription opioid is listed as  
6 a cause of death, it's a reliable methodology to  
7 consider it a cause of death.

8 Q. Well, when you -- when you talk about  
9 "cause" in this -- in this circumstance, you're not  
10 talking about sole cause or the only cause. You're  
11 talking about one among potentially a number of  
12 causes. Correct?

13 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

14 A. The definition of "cause" is a factor  
15 without which the outcome would not have occurred.

16 Q. So --

17 A. So there could be multiple causes.

18 Q. There could be multiple causes for a  
19 certain event, correct?

20 A. There can be multiple causes, but it's not  
21 a cause unless the outcome would not have occurred  
22 without it.

23 Q. But the medical examiner doesn't decide  
24 whether an outcome would have occurred without the

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. And do you believe that's because of any  
3 relevant time period in the Dowell paper?

4 A. -- the paper --

5 Q. Well, let me ask this -- if the Dowell  
6 paper had the same statistics through 2018, would  
7 you have stopped at 2015?

8 A. Yeah.

9 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

10 Q. You would have?

11 A. I would have stopped at 2015. That was the  
12 relevant time period I was interested in. The 2011  
13 to 2015 time period. Because that covers the  
14 direct pre- and post-fentanyl introduction. And so  
15 that small window was the correct window to  
16 estimate the factor of three.

17 If you went through 2018, you would get  
18 a much bigger factor, but that wouldn't be relevant  
19 to the multiplier that I was interested in.

20 Q. It wouldn't be relevant?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Did you -- did you consider applying your  
23 multiplier based on data through 2018?

24 A. I considered it and rejected it as



1 didn't do that.

2 Q. And again, that's because you're assuming  
3 there were not any changes in what was causing the  
4 increased mortality over that period of time.  
5 Correct?

6 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

7 A. I am assuming that the contribution of  
8 synthetic opioids in terms of the percentage  
9 increase in drug overdose death was similar after  
10 2015 than pre-- 2013, essentially.

11 Q. Have there been any changes since 2015 in  
12 the ways in which illicit fentanyl is -- is sold on  
13 the streets or the forms in which it appears?

14 A. Can you give an example of that?

15 Q. Sure. An example would be -- you  
16 testified, I think, earlier fentanyl being  
17 available as an adulterant in heroin. Are you  
18 aware that there are also prescription -- sorry,  
19 excuse me.

20 -- that there are counterfeit  
21 prescription pills made to resemble a prescription  
22 opioid that are often laced with fentanyl and cause  
23 death?

24 A. I am aware that there are counterfeit

1 prescription opioids and that some of them have  
2 fentanyl in them.

3 Q. And are you aware that people have  
4 overdosed and died from pills like that?

5 A. Yes, I have -- I'm aware that that occurs.

6 Q. In forming your conservative estimate of  
7 the OUD population in Cabell/Huntington, did you  
8 investigate whether or not these types of  
9 counterfeit pills were more -- more available after  
10 2015 than they were in 2015?

11 A. Again, that -- that wouldn't change my  
12 estimate if they were more available versus less  
13 available, as long as the pre/post fentanyl  
14 introduction multiplier is -- is the accurate  
15 multiplier, which is the one that I've used.

16 So because there are more fentanyl  
17 deaths, what matters in terms of the validity of  
18 the estimation, is the probability of death  
19 per use.

20 Q. And is carfentanil more potent than what  
21 was generally referred to as synthetic fentanyl  
22 when fentanyl first appeared?

23 A. I would need to look at -- there are a  
24 number of different synthetic opioids. I was

1 assuming kind of an average of them.

2 Q. Okay. Well, I've already asked whether you  
3 know if carfentanil is -- is present and available  
4 in 2015. But my question more specifically was:  
5 Do you know whether or not carfentanil is more  
6 potent and therefore considered more dangerous than  
7 other synthetic fentanyl?

8 A. I would have to look at the range of all  
9 synthetic fentanyl. Carfentanil is very potent.  
10 But you know, if you want to show me some data on  
11 the potency of various synthetic opioids, I can  
12 answer your question. But just carfentanil  
13 compared to a random synthetic opioid, I don't have  
14 -- I can't -- that's not sufficiently specific to  
15 answer your question.

16 Q. Okay. Can you open -- let me just make  
17 sure I have the number correct.

18 -- Exhibit 86?

19 KEYES DEPOSITION EXHIBIT NO. 86

20 ("Underlying Factors in Drug Overdose  
21 Deaths" by Dowell, et al. dated  
22 12-19-17 was marked for identification  
23 purposes as Keyes Deposition Exhibit  
24 No. 86.)

1           A.     Can you ask your question again?

2           Q.     Sure. You had told me that the reason you  
3     stuck with 2015 deaths per 100,000 even though you  
4     knew that there were higher estimates for later  
5     years and even though you fully understand that  
6     using those higher estimates would reduce your OUD  
7     population, that the reason for that is you wanted  
8     to have a multiplier to capture the period of the  
9     year before and after the change.

10                   So my question was: If there were  
11     further changes in the availability, the potency,  
12     the number of ways in which it appeared, the  
13     transparency with which it appeared, if any or all  
14     of those things changed subsequent to 2015, would  
15     your multiplier really be picking up, as you put  
16     it, the change?

17                   MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection, vague,  
18     ambiguous, argumentative, compound, asked and  
19     answered.

20           A.     No. That's the short answer to your  
21     question, is no. The correct calculation would be  
22     2011 to 2015 because the calculation is not  
23     capturing -- the purpose of the calculation is not  
24     to capture the change from one time to another;

1 it's to estimate the change in the probability of  
2 drug overdose death, given a change in the  
3 underlying death rate.

4 And so the appropriate way to calculate  
5 that using the methodology that is reliable in my  
6 field would be to use a pre/post comparison in an  
7 interrupted time series, which is what I did.

8 If there are further changes after  
9 2015, it would be biased to include that as part of  
10 my interrupted time series.

11 So the way you are describing the  
12 methodology would be incorrect. The way I'm  
13 describing the methodology is correct under the  
14 reliable methods of my field.

15 Q. So let me just make sure I understand that.  
16 If there were further changes in how dangerous  
17 illicit fentanyl was as measured by the number of  
18 deaths it caused per 100,000, that would not be  
19 relevant to your estimate of the OUD population  
20 based upon the number of deaths attributed to  
21 fentanyl?

22 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

23 A. I don't know how to describe this  
24 methodology again. Changes in --

1 Q. Doctor Keyes, did you perform your own  
2 calculations in this matter?

3 A. I worked with my research assistant.

4 Q. Did you review the calculations that were  
5 performed in this matter?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. Do you have a working understanding of how  
8 the calculations were performed?

9 A. No, to be honest with you, I don't. If  
10 there's a specific subtraction that -- in a  
11 specific column of one specific Excel spreadsheet  
12 -- I performed a lot of analyses to come up with  
13 these estimates, and I would need to see what  
14 specifically you're referring to.

15 Q. Well, I'd be happy to provide it, I'm not  
16 trying to do it by ambush. I knew that there were  
17 a lot of exhibits that had been -- had been sent  
18 out. I wasn't aware until today that this Excel  
19 spreadsheet was not one of them.

20 If you'd like, I can e-mail the  
21 spreadsheet. But I'm asking you about what was  
22 disclosed to us as your -- your backup Excel file,  
23 with your calculations, and I just -- I have some  
24 questions --

1 that to you. If you're going to complain about me  
2 offering to do that, I won't send it to you and  
3 I'll continue asking my questions.

4 MR. ARBITBLIT: You can ask your  
5 questions, but the witness is within her rights not  
6 to be able to not answer them without seeing what  
7 you're talking about.

8 MR. METZ: Okay, you and I have a  
9 different view about what experts can be asked  
10 about.

11 MR. ARBITBLIT: I didn't say you  
12 couldn't ask.

13 BY MR. METZ:

14 Q. Doctor Keyes, do you have a working  
15 knowledge of the calculations that you produced for  
16 your Figure 8, how they were put together?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Does that calculation at any point include  
19 a -- the creation of a percentage that is the  
20 percentage of deaths coded T40.4 as a share of  
21 deaths coded T40.2, T40.3 and T40.4 combined. Yes  
22 or no.

23 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

24 A. The Figure 8?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. So what we did for Figure 8 was T40.2,  
3 T40.3 and a portion of T40.4.

4 Q. Do you know how you arrived at the portion?

5 A. Yes, I do.

6 Q. How did you arrive at the portion?

7 A. We estimated the pre-illicit fentanyl share  
8 of prescription opioid overdose deaths that were  
9 due to T40.4 and applied that share thereafter. I  
10 attributed those deaths to prescription opioids.

11 Q. Okay. In coming up with that share, are  
12 deaths that are coded T40.4, are they exclusive of  
13 -- that same death can't appear as T40.2 or T40.3,  
14 can it?

15 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. Okay. And so getting back to the question  
18 I was trying to ask before, you've described the  
19 default rule that you would use if T40.2 or T40.3  
20 was present, you would code that death as one or  
21 the other of those.

22 But my question was: If they are not  
23 present, you only have T40.1 and you only have  
24 T40.4. Did you have a default rule that you



1 applied as to which way that death would be coded  
2 the one time that it's coded?

3 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

4 A. T40.4 is not in Figure 8. That's what I'm  
5 confused about.

6 Q. Well --

7 A. I mean, T40.1 is not in Figure 8.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. So if it's coded T40.1 and T40.4, it's  
10 coded T40.4, so the same rule that's described in  
11 the report was applied.

12 Q. Okay. And you have a Figure 16, correct?

13 A. Do you want me to go to Figure 16?

14 Q. I'm asking, do you know that you have a  
15 Figure 16?

16 A. I do know that I have a Figure 16.

17 Q. Okay. Does the calculation that produces  
18 your Figure 16 include T40.1?

19 A. Yes, Figure 16 does include T40.1.

20 Q. Okay. So just going back to my prior  
21 answer -- my prior question: For purposes of your  
22 Figure 16, when you were deciding whether something  
23 belonged in the bucket of T40.1 versus T40.4, if  
24 both were present - which again, there is a

1     circumstance in which there was heroin and fentanyl  
2     both present - did you have a default rule that you  
3     used in order to decide whether that death would be  
4     coded as fentanyl versus coded as heroin?

5           A.     I would need to look at the spreadsheet to  
6     know exactly what mathematical formula that we  
7     applied.

8           Q.     Okay. I don't believe that information is  
9     available in the spreadsheet. So my question is  
10    simply: As you sit here, you do not know whether a  
11    death certificate that was coded as both heroin and  
12    fentanyl, whether that - for purposes of your  
13    analytics - was listed as a heroin death or a  
14    fentanyl death?

15          A.     I believe I've been very transparent with  
16    my methodology, so if a -- if a death has T40.1 and  
17    T40.4, then the share of the T40.4 deaths that were  
18    the pre-2013 deaths would be applied to that. That  
19    death could only be -- that death could be  
20    considered directly or indirectly attributable to  
21    prescription opioids based on a proportionate share  
22    from the pre-2013 T40.4 deaths.

23                   So it's -- I think the question is a  
24    little bit too simplistic of which bucket did T40.1

1 and T40.4 deaths go, because it was based on this  
2 mathematical calculation.

3 Q. Is that true, what you just told me, for  
4 time periods prior to 2012?

5 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

6 A. Prior to 20 -- prior to 2012, T40.4 deaths  
7 were considered prescription opioid deaths.

8 Q. And if it was a T40.1 and a T40.4 both  
9 present, you would call that a T40.4 death, a  
10 fentanyl death, rather than a heroin death. Is  
11 that fair?

12 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

13 A. I didn't call anything a fentanyl death. I  
14 attributed that death to prescription opioids.

15 Q. Well, but specifically for purposes of your  
16 calculation, you attributed it as a T40.4; is that  
17 right?

18 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

19 A. I --

20 MR. ARBITBLIT: Vague.

21 A. I didn't do that. I didn't attribute  
22 anything to T40.4. I attributed things to  
23 prescription opioids or not prescription opioids.

24 Q. Okay. I'll move on.

1                   Now, you've described for purposes of  
2     calculating your Figure 8 that that is the before  
3     2013 share of overdose deaths that was attributable  
4     to -- to -- to what you would understand to be  
5     prescription fentanyl. Is that a fair summation of  
6     what Figure 8 represents?

7           A.     I considered T40.4 deaths to be  
8     prescription opioid deaths prior to 2013.

9           Q.     Okay. And sorry I wasn't clear. So then  
10    for 2013 forward, you've not just been able to take  
11    the total that is coded T40.4 because you  
12    understand some number of those are illicit  
13    fentanyl deaths, they're not prescription fentanyl  
14    deaths, right?

15          A.     That's right.

16          Q.     Sorry, I couldn't hear you. Was that a  
17    yes?

18          A.     Yes, that's right. That's right.

19          Q.     And so you were starting to describe this  
20    calculation that you perform in order to attribute  
21    going forward some number of those -- that T40.4  
22    category to -- to prescription opioids, and so my  
23    questions are going to relate to that. I want to  
24    understand better the logic of the calculation.

1 A. Sure.

2 Q. So when you calc -- first of all, is it  
3 correct that in order to come up with the share  
4 that you're attributing to prescription fentanyl,  
5 your first step is to calculate a ratio of T40.4  
6 deaths as a function of T40.2, T40.3 and T40.4  
7 combined.

8 A. That's right. .

9 Q. And --

10 A. Wait, I'm sorry, actually, I don't think  
11 that's quite right. I would have to look at the  
12 spreadsheet. I'm sorry. I think that we did some  
13 manipulation to the -- to account for deaths that  
14 had T40.2 and T40.3 as well as T40.4, so I don't  
15 think the way you've described it as exactly what  
16 we did.

17 Q. Okay. If you'll accept -- well, let me  
18 just ask it a different way. However you would  
19 more precisely phrase that, there is a step in your  
20 calculation in which you come up with a percentage  
21 that T40.4 represented as a function of some other  
22 prescription opioids. You may have made some  
23 adjustment to it.

24 But isn't that correct, that that is

1 one step in your calculation?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Okay. And if it would help -- I think this  
6 is described in text on page 33 of your report --

7 A. Yeah, I was referring to that.

8 Q. -- where you say -- right, "I estimated the  
9 rate of synthetic opioid deaths from 1999 to 2012,  
10 and applied that rate to synthetic opioids over  
11 those deaths from 2013 and onwards as a estimate of  
12 the number of synthetic" "deaths." Correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Okay. So then when you -- and do you  
15 recall -- do you recall what that rate was,  
16 approximately?

17 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

18 A. Not off the top of my head.

19 Q. Okay. Off the top of your head, do you  
20 know whether in calculating that rate you took a  
21 weighted average of the deaths?

22 A. I considered doing a year-to-year average,  
23 but the numbers were unreliable for on a  
24 year-to-year basis, and so I summed the total

1 period from 1999 to 2012 to get a more  
2 statistically reliable estimate.

3 Q. It's more statistically reliable to sum all  
4 the deaths and then take the percentage, correct?

5 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

6 Q. Maybe I misunderstood. I just wanted to  
7 make sure I understood correctly what you said you  
8 did to get a more reliable estimate.

9 A. Maybe you could be more clear what you mean  
10 by a "weighted average."

11 Q. Yeah, all I meant was to calculate what you  
12 described in your -- the text of your report as a  
13 rate, you took -- you formed that rate as a  
14 function of all deaths from 1999 through 2012  
15 rather than doing it, as you described, year by  
16 year. Is that fair?

17 A. (Nodded affirmatively).

18 Q. Okay. And that approach is taking them all  
19 together, as opposed to doing it year by year, I  
20 think you just testified that's the more reliable  
21 way to do that, correct?

22 A. I did it both ways, and it didn't make a  
23 difference in my final calculation, and I felt that  
24 the overall period provided a more reliable

1 estimate.

2 Q. Yeah. Would it surprise you to know that  
3 in fact you did the opposite?

4 A. I'm sorry, I -- I'm not understanding.

5 Q. Okay. Now, you then used this rate that  
6 you calculated to estimate going forward the number  
7 of deaths coded as T40.4 that are -- that continue  
8 to be attributable to prescription opioids, in your  
9 opinion. Is that correct?

10 A. As an estimate, yes.

11 Q. Okay. And you do that for the years 2013  
12 through 2018; is that right?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. And explain to me why -- or how is the rate  
15 of -- at which prescription opioids -- the rate  
16 that that made up of all -- sorry, back this up.

17 Explain to me how the percentage share  
18 of prescription opioid deaths that was attributable  
19 to prescription fentanyl prior to 2012, how that  
20 statistic in any way predictive of the share of  
21 T40.4 deaths, so synthetic only, that were the  
22 result of prescription fentanyl.

23 Can you explain the logic of that to  
24 me?



1           A.     Sure. Well, to back up, I did the  
2     calculations several ways, including estimating  
3     post-2013, using the same sort of denominator, if  
4     you will, of all prescription opioid deaths that  
5     were T40.4 and estimated that as a function of the  
6     number that would potentially be attributable to  
7     prescription opioids, and then estimated the total  
8     number of T40.4 deaths - which is the number of  
9     deaths that I was interested - how many of those  
10    would be attributable to prescription opioids, and  
11    the results were similar no matter how you applied  
12    that estimate post-2013, but my interest was in the  
13    fentanyl deaths, and so I applied the percentage to  
14    the -- to the fentanyl deaths specifically, because  
15    those are the deaths that I was interested in  
16    identifying an estimate of the number that would be  
17    due to prescriptions.

18          Q.     But how -- given the manner in which you  
19    calculated the percentage, how was it informative  
20    of the share of T40.4 deaths that are prescription  
21    fentanyl versus illicit fentanyl? Is it your  
22    testimony that the ratio you calculated is somehow  
23    informative of that question? And if so, how?

24          A.     So as an example, if prior to 2013 there

1     were 100 prescription opioid deaths and two of them  
2     were prescription fentanyl deaths, if there were  
3     100 fentanyl deaths after 2013, I would estimate  
4     that two of those would be prescription fentanyl  
5     deaths.

6           Q.     And if there were 400 fentanyl deaths, you  
7     would -- you would estimate that eight were  
8     prescription fentanyl, correct?

9           A.     I'm sorry?

10          Q.     Under that same logic you just described,  
11     if there were 400 prescription fentanyl deaths, you  
12     -- your logic would lead you to conclude to eight  
13     were the result of prescription deaths.

14          A.     Using that calculation, that would be the  
15     -- that would be the estimate.

16          Q.     Okay. And if there were -- and if we  
17     doubled the number of deaths again, solely within  
18     the category of synthetic -- synthetic opioids, you  
19     would continue to calculate that that ratio would  
20     hold, no matter --

21          A.     Yes.

22          Q.     -- how many additional deaths there were --

23          A.     It stays the same.

24          Q.     -- a certain percentage will always be the

1 result of prescription opioids versus illicit --  
2 prescription fentanyl versus illicit fentanyl?

3 A. It's a relatively moot point, because I did  
4 it a number of different ways, and the results were  
5 robust to the type of correction that you did.

6 But I applied the correction to the  
7 T40.4 deaths overall.

8 Q. What sensitivity tests did you perform on  
9 this calculation?

10 A. As I mentioned, I looked at the T40.4  
11 deaths as a function of overall prescription opioid  
12 deaths as well.

13 Q. Are you relying on that calculation for the  
14 robustness that you just testified to?

15 A. I don't -- I guess I don't understand what  
16 you mean by that.

17 Q. Well, that calculation hasn't been  
18 disclosed to us, so my question is: Are you  
19 relying on that for purposes of what you just  
20 explained was your belief that this is a -- the  
21 issue I'm describing -- discussing doesn't matter  
22 because you got the same results no matter how you  
23 did it so --

24 A. So --

1 Q. -- are you relying on that other  
2 calculation to support that statement?

3 A. In the course of due diligence in  
4 epidemiology, we routinely do a range of different  
5 sensitivity analyses on the robustness of our  
6 results. That's just what we do in the course of  
7 our calculations.

8 So I rely on the estimate that I  
9 provided in the report, and I also - because I'm an  
10 epidemiologist - I tested the robustness of it  
11 using multiple different approaches.

12 Q. And did you retain --

13 A. So I --

14 Q. And did you retain those robustness and  
15 sensitivity analyses?

16 A. We were -- I'm sure I did.

17 Q. And have they been produced to the  
18 defendants in this litigation?

19 A. I was asked to produce the calculations  
20 that went into the report. I routinely do  
21 sensitivity analyses on my estimates. So no, I  
22 have not produced the sensitivity analyses.

23 Q. Okay. Back to my original question: How  
24 is the rate at which T40.4 was present among T40.2,

1 T40.3 and T40.4, how does that rate inform at all  
2 the question of how much of T40.4 is then made up  
3 of prescription fentanyl versus illicit fentanyl?

4 How is the one informative of the  
5 other?

6 A. I would answer it the same way as when you  
7 previously asked it: That that is the population  
8 that we're interested in estimating this percentage  
9 within, and that's routinely done in epidemiology.

10 Q. Well, I understand that that's the question  
11 you want to answer. But why does that ratio  
12 provide you that answer?

13 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection,  
14 argumentative, asked and answered.

15 A. I think I've explained it. It's the T40 --  
16 the T40.4 deaths, we wanted the share of those that  
17 were due to prescription opioids. We knew the  
18 share of prescription opioid deaths that were due  
19 to fentanyl in a prior period, and so applied that  
20 share to the T40.4 deaths, which was the subgroup  
21 that we were specifically interested in.

22 Q. And -- but you understand that after 2013  
23 that the subgroup of prescription fentanyl and  
24 illicit fentanyl -- you understand that, correct?

1           A.     I understand that T40.4 is synthetic opioid  
2     death.

3           Q.     And that after 2013, it's inclusive of  
4     illicit fentanyl as well as you assumed some  
5     prescription fentanyl. Correct?

6           A.     I would say synthetic opioids. But yes,  
7     it's going to be a mix of illicit and licit.

8           Q.     And it's your testimony, as a reasonable  
9     epidemiologist, that you can look at the population  
10    at which prescription fentanyl was present, among  
11    other prescription opioids, and that will tell you  
12    how much prescription fentanyl was present among  
13    prescription fentanyl and illicit fentanyl. That's  
14    your testimony?

15          A.     That's one way to estimate that portion. I  
16    did it a number of different ways. None of them  
17    made a difference in terms of my opinion or  
18    materially to the calculation, and I think it's  
19    routine in epidemiology to, for example, apply an  
20    estimate of risk to the subgroup at risk to try to  
21    get an estimate of the total number.

22          Q.     Is it routine in epidemiology to have a  
23    hypothesis in mind when using statistical analysis,  
24    as to how one number might be determinative of some

1 other number? Is that routine?

2 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

3 A. I'm not understanding what the question  
4 means. To have a hypothesis -- what do you mean by  
5 "a hypothesis"?

6 Q. Do you ever use the term "hypothesis" in  
7 connection with statistical analysis?

8 A. I do.

9 Q. And what do you use it to mean?

10 A. I would hypothesize that prescription  
11 opioid use causes heroin use, for example. It's  
12 usually -- a hypothesis is about a cause or a  
13 causal connection.

14 Q. And is it important to have a hypothesis  
15 when interpreting statistical information? To then  
16 base further conclusions on.

17 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

18 A. I wouldn't make a blanket statement like  
19 that.

20 Q. Okay. Would you agree or disagree with the  
21 statement that "One must infer that a causal  
22 relationship exists on the basis of an underlying  
23 causal theory that explains the relationship  
24 between two variables?"

1 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

2 Q. Would you agree with that as a blanket  
3 statement?

4 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

5 A. No, I wouldn't agree with that as a blanket  
6 statement.

7 Q. And certainly that's not consistent with  
8 the principles you applied in performing this  
9 calculation, right?

10 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

11 A. I don't --

12 MR. ARBITBLIT: Vague.

13 A. It's not consistent or inconsistent. I  
14 don't see the relevance.

15 Q. Back to your calculation that you used to  
16 produce Figure 8 - and also, then, therefore Figure  
17 16 - am I correct that you used West Virginia  
18 statewide death totals as the basis for the  
19 calculation that you performed?

20 A. For the West Virginia rates, yes.

21 Q. Well, and am I correct that you then  
22 applied that West Virginia rate to -- within Cabell  
23 and Huntington, but you didn't estimate a separate  
24 Cabell and Huntington rate, correct?



1           A.     For the death rates, we had data on Cabell  
2     for a number of years.

3           Q.     Right. I'm just asking you if you used it  
4     for purposes of calculating the rate that you  
5     attributed to prescription fentanyl. Is that how  
6     you performed the calculation?

7           A.     Can you just be specific about what rate  
8     you mean? Because there's a lot of rates in Figure  
9     8.

10          Q.     The rates we've been talking about that are  
11     discussed at page 33 of your report. It's the rate  
12     of prescription fentanyl and the share of other  
13     prescription opioids.

14          A.     Yes.

15          Q.     Do you recall whether you calculated that  
16     rate on the basis of West Virginia-specific data or  
17     Cabell and -- Cabell County-specific data?

18          A.     I would need to look at the spreadsheet.

19          Q.     Okay. Sticking with the West Virginia  
20     piece of it, do you recall approximately how many  
21     deaths you attributed to prescription -- to  
22     prescription fentanyl in the last year for which  
23     you were using actual data, not estimated data? Do  
24     you recall approximately how many deaths that was?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Would you believe me if I told you that in  
3 the West Virginia portion of your calculation, you  
4 -- for 2012, you had 41 deaths?

5 A. I really would need to see the -- the  
6 spreadsheet.

7 Q. That's fine. You can treat this as a  
8 hypothetical. I am asking about your calculation,  
9 but if you want to treat it as a hypothetical, be  
10 my guest. I'd like you to assume that for 2012,  
11 you had 41 deaths in that category, and then you  
12 begin projecting --

13 A. Could you just slow down a minute? Which  
14 category? The 20 -- 2012 -- I'm sorry, just go a  
15 little bit slowly so I can keep up.

16 Q. No problem. 2012, the deaths that had only  
17 T40.4 as a contributing opioid. Okay? You with  
18 me? The death that you --

19 A. So 2012 -- I'm assuming a hypothetical that  
20 in 2012, there were 41 deaths with T40.4 --

21 Q. Correct.

22 A. -- only. No other T codes.

23 Q. Well, you've told us a little bit how  
24 you've categorized things. But that's the number

1 represented in -- we'll call it hypothetically.  
2 But that's in Column J, Row 36 of your  
3 calculations, as deaths that had only T40.4 as a  
4 contributing opioid, is how you describe it there.

5 A. I find it very difficult to follow this  
6 when I'm not allowed to see the spreadsheet.

7 Q. You're more than allowed. I offered to  
8 provide it. Your counsel complained about that  
9 offer, and so I've not provided it. If you'd like  
10 me to provide it, I'd be willing to provide it  
11 right now. I suspect Mr. Arbitblit will just  
12 complain again.

13 So you can have it one way or the  
14 other, but you can't have it both ways.

15 A. This is difficult to --

16 Q. That's fine. Why don't I continue my  
17 question. I would like for you to assume for 2012,  
18 the deaths that you attributed to prescription  
19 fentanyl --

20 MS. DO AMARAL: I'm sorry, Counsel,  
21 can we take a moment? I don't see that  
22 Mr. Arbitblit is still on --

23 MR. ARBITBLIT: I'm still on.

24 MS. DO AMARAL: We need to stop the

1 deposition for a minute? Can we take a few  
2 minutes?

3 MR. ARBITBLIT: No, no, no, no I'm  
4 still on.

5 MS. DO AMARAL: I'm sorry, Don, I  
6 didn't see you:

7 MR. ARBITBLIT: I am still on.

8 Q. Okay, let me ask this again. For the last  
9 year for which you had actual data, you had 41  
10 deaths in the category of T40.4 as the contributing  
11 opioid, that's the prescription fentanyl. Okay?

12 A. I had actual data on all years.

13 Q. Well, you don't for 2013 and 20-- I'm using  
14 data in contrast to the years for which you  
15 provided an estimate of the T40.4. Do you  
16 understand my meaning now?

17 A. Sure.

18 Q. Okay. For the last year for which you only  
19 used actual data, no estimated or projection, there  
20 were 41 deaths in that category. Do you recall  
21 approximately how many deaths your estimate put in  
22 that category for the year 2017?

23 MR. ARBITBLIT: Objection.

24 A. No.

1 Q. You do not recall?

2 A. No.

3 Q. If -- I'll ask you just to assume, as a  
4 hypothetical - but for the record, this is in  
5 Column J, Row 41 - it's 491 deaths. So it's 450  
6 more than in the last year for which you were using  
7 data alone rather than a projection.

8 My question is --

9 A. I don't know that that's accurate.

10 Q. Well, I -- you can fight me on whether or  
11 not it's accurate. I'm staring it at in the face.  
12 I'd be happy to show it to you. But if you don't  
13 believe me, take it as a hypothetical, and then  
14 answer this question:

15 Do you have a theory that would explain  
16 why prescription fentanyl went from killing 41  
17 people in 2012 to killing 491 people five years  
18 later? Do you have a theory as to why that would  
19 be the case?

20 A. Prescription overdose deaths are --  
21 overdose deaths are going up overall, so I would  
22 need to look at the specific underlying data in  
23 order to answer that question.

24 Q. Do you know whether the availability of

1 prescription fentanyl specifically increased or  
2 decreased over that time period?

3 A. It decreased slightly.

4 Q. Okay. Do you know whether the potency of  
5 prescription fentanyl increased, decreased or  
6 stayed the same over that time period?

7 A. I don't know.

8 Q. And at least under your calculation,  
9 prescription fentanyl specifically was present in  
10 ten times as many overdose deaths as a result of  
11 your projection and --

12 A. Again, I did the projections several  
13 different ways.

14 Q. And my question is: If it's not because  
15 there was more prescription fentanyl available and  
16 if it's not because prescription fentanyl was more  
17 potent all the sudden, is there a theory that would  
18 explain why prescription fentanyl specifically was  
19 now causing 12 times as many deaths as before per  
20 year?

21 A. I am not offering any opinions with respect  
22 to that. My only opinion is that the reliability  
23 of my estimates was verified as much as I could.  
24 And so this is the most reasonable and reliable

1 approach that I could -- that I decided to use.

2 Q. And some of those methods that you've just  
3 described, validating the reliability of your  
4 analysis, you performed additional statistical  
5 calculations that lead you to that conclusion,  
6 correct?

7 A. Yes. Routinely we perform many different  
8 statistical calculations when we're estimating  
9 trends like this.

10 Q. Now, earlier today you made reference to a  
11 study that you refer to as the Allen paper? Do you  
12 recall that?

13 A. I do.

14 Q. I just want to confirm. Is the title of  
15 that paper "Estimating the number of people who  
16 inject drugs in a rural county in Appalachia?"

17 A. Is it -- is it one of the exhibits?

18 Q. It is not one of the exhibits. Do you  
19 recall that title?

20 A. Yeah, I think that that's the title.

21 Q. Okay. Do you recall whether one of the  
22 co-authors of the paper was a Michael Kilkenny,  
23 who's affiliated or employed by the Cabell-  
24 Huntington Health Department?